

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. **Amendments to the specification and claims**

The specification has been amended to correct the informalities indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to make the claimed subject matter more clearly distinguishable over the cited references.

Claims 23 and 24 have been newly added without adding any new matter and in full compliance with the statutory requirements. The added claims 23 and 24 are fully supported by the original disclosure.

2. **Rejection of Claims 9, 14, 19 and 20 Under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over kalnin (U.S. 3,691,000) in view of Dubowik et al. (U.S. 5,280,091) further in view of Yamato et al. (U.S. 4,451,637)**

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that Kalnin, Dubowik et al. and Yamamoto et al. fail to disclose or suggest the following positively recited

features:

- a. in which the epoxy resin mixture including epoxy resin, silica and a fibrous material, the reinforcing fibrous material being a material selected from the group consisting of glass fiber, carbon fiber, and aramid fiber or a mixture thereof, as defined in claims 9 and 14;
- b. in which the epoxy resin mixture includes epoxy resin of about 23.9 wt% to about 30.1 wt%, silica of about 69.3 wt% to about 74.5 wt% and reinforcing fibrous material of about 0.1 wt%, as defined in claim 24 (and supported by the disclosures on pages 14 to 16 of the specification); and
- c. in which a vehicle block structure comprises a body including a hardened epoxy resin mixture containing epoxy resin, silica, rubbles and reinforcing fibrous material, as defined in claim 19.

The present invention recited in claims 9, 14 and 19 is characterized in that the epoxy resin mixture includes epoxy resin, silica and a fibrous material, the epoxy resin mixture exhibiting excellent properties as indicated in Tables 1 and 2 in the specification. Especially, claim 24 defines a special range of each of the epoxy resin, the silica and the fibrous material.

In contrast, Kalnin merely discloses hybrid fibrous

reinforcing laminae comprising a plurality of lamina of glass fiber and a plurality of carbon fiber; Dubowik et al. teach the adjustment of cure temperatures and curing times for polyepoxide resins is within the discretion of the formulator; and Yamamoto et al. teach epoxy resin composition may include inorganic fillers, fire retardants and the like. None of these cited references, however, disclose or suggest the inventive features of the claimed invention, i.e., the epoxy resin mixture including epoxy resin, silica and a fibrous material.

3. Rejection of Claims 1-16, 10-13, 15-18, 21-22 Under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over kalnin (U.S. 3,691,000) in view of Dubowik et al. (U.S. 5,280,091) further in view of Yamato et al. (U.S. 4,451,637), and further in view of Sweeney (U.S. 5,268,226) and Tepic (U.S. 5,093,050)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that Kalnin, Dubowik et al., Yamamoto et al., Sweeney and Tepic fail to disclose or suggest the following positively recited features:

- a. in which the epoxy resin mixture including epoxy resin, silica and a fibrous material, the reinforcing fibrous material being a material selected from the group consisting of glass fiber, carbon fiber, and aramid fiber or a mixture thereof, as defined in claim 1; and

- b. in which the epoxy resin mixture includes epoxy resin of about 23.9 wt% to about 30.1 wt%, silica of about 69.3 wt% to about 74.5 wt% and reinforcing fibrous material of about 0.1 wt%, as defined in claim 23 (and supported by the disclosures on pages 14 to 16 of the specification); and

The present invention recited in claim 1 is characterized by the epoxy resin mixture including epoxy resin, silica and a fibrous material, which exhibits excellent properties as indicated in Tables 1 and 2 in the specification. Especially, claim 23 defines a special range of each of the epoxy resin, the silica and the fibrous material.

In contrast, Sweeney and Tepic also do not disclose or suggest the inventive features of the present invention, i.e., the epoxy resin mixture including epoxy resin, silica and a fibrous material.

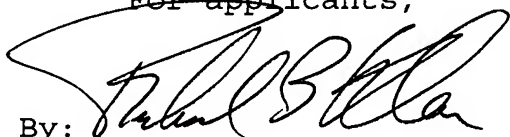
As stated above, the prior art references do not show the inventive features of the present invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 9, 14 and 19. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 9, 14 and 19 recite patentable inventions over the prior art references and are therefore allowable.

It is also believed that the remaining claims, which directly or indirectly depend on the independent

claims, are allowable for the same reasons indicated with respect to the independent claims and further because of the additional features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with the features recited in the independent claims, remove the invention defined therein further from the disclosures made in the cited reference.

Applicants believe that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicants now respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1, 3-6, 9-11 and 13-24 be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussion, he is kindly invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

Respectfully submitted
~~For applicants,~~

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